REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 1, 3-8, and 10-14, of which claims 1 and 8 are independent. Claims 2 and 9 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter, the subject matter having been incorporated into claims 1 and 8, respectively.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Claims 2 and 9 were identified as reciting patentable subject matter and being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 8 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 9, respectively. Thus, claim 1 and 8 now correspond to claims 2 and 9 rewritten into independent form and are now in condition for allowance.
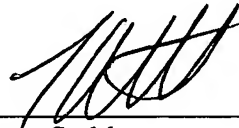
Applicants have amended claims 6, 7, 13, and 14 to address the informality cited by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objections to claims 7 and 14 is now respectfully sought.

The remaining claims not heretofore discus sed are dependent claims which depend from either claim 1 or claim 8 and are therefore patentable for reasons noted above with respect to claims 1 and 8. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and early passage to issue are respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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